

**Lt. Governor Garamendi Unites With Labor, Education & Healthcare Leaders Against \$4.5 Billion in Additional Budget Cuts**

SACRAMENTO – Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi today stood together with education, health care, student, taxpayer and labor leaders to draw the line against an additional \$4.5 billion in budget cuts to education, health care and other vital services to balance the state's ballooning \$11 billion budget deficit.

Garamendi said it was only 45 days ago that \$10.3 billion in devastating cuts were signed into law by the Governor in his 2008-09 budget. Californians, he said, cannot deal with more cuts during a major economic downturn when they are losing their jobs, credit and homes.

"The Governor is calling for another \$4.5 billion in cuts. My answer is no. Enough already," Lieutenant John Garamendi said. "We have already devastated the vital services Californians need. Garamendi was joined by students, representatives from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Health Access California, California Tax Reform Association, California Federation of Teachers, California State Employees Association, Association of California State Supervisors, the California School Boards Association, the California state Student Associations, the California School Employees Association, the California State University Employees Union, United Domestic Workers of America, the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges and Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice

Garamendi said he applauds the Governor for taking immediate action to solve the budget deficit and is encouraged by the inclusion of a stimulus package as well as a plan for addressing the mortgage crisis. Most of all, Garamendi said he is encouraged the Governor made it clear that California now faces a revenue problem, not a spending problem.

###

For Immediate Release  
November 7, 2008  
Contact: Beth Willon  
916-878-9674